S. No.	States/UTs	Status of constitution of DPCs
24	Tamil Nadu	Yes.
25	Tripura	Yes.
26	Uttar Pradesh	Yes.
27	Uttaranchal	Not constituted
28	West Bengal	Yes in 17 districts.
29	A&N Islands	Yes.
30	Chandigarh	Not in favour as 90% of population covered by Municipality
31	D&N Haveli	Yes.
32	Daman & Diu	Not constituted
33	NCT Delhi	State PR Act is under suspension
34	Lakshadweep	Yes.
35	Pondicherry	Elections not held

Source: Ministry of Rural Development

National action Plan for development of Backward Districts

1946. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for development of backward districts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any National Action Plan has been chalked out by Government in this respect;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Hence, Planning Commission has not formulated any scheme for the development of backward districts per se nor has any

National Action plan been chalked out. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward areas through weightage in the formula used for the distribution of Central Assistance.

Further, various programmes have been formulated to deal with the special problems of identified areas such as the Tribal Sub-Plan, the Border Area Development Programme, Hill Areas Development Programme, Desert Development Programme/Drought Prone Areas Programme etc. These programmes use the special characteristics of the particular development problem to identify the areas and fix the levels of allocation. Further, there are a number of programmes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development, watershed development, social security and land reforms to improve the quality of life in the rural areas and to assist people below the poverty line. These programmes use poverty/ poverty related indicators for the allocation of funds.

In order to encourage speedy industrialization and for dispersal of industries in industrially backward areas, Category A and Category B districts have been identified for the purpose of income tax concessions under 80-IA of the Income Tax act. In addition there are various shcmes for infrastructure development of the industrial sector such as the Growth Centres Scheme, Scheme for Integrated Infrastructural Development Centres, etc.

In addition, successive Finance Commissions have laid stress on backwardness in the formula for determining inter-state shares of Central Tax proceeds. In particular, the weight of the inverse of per capita state income criterion takes note of backwardness. The Eleventh Finance Commission assigned a weight of 62.5 percent for its award period– 2000-05, which is higher than the weight assigned by previous Commissions. In addition, the criteria of 'Area' and 'Index of Infrastructure' also help backward states. In general, larger area and a lower development of infrastructure are strongly associated with backwardness and recognizing this, the Eleventh Finance Commission assigned weight of 7.5 per cent each, up from 5 per cent recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission. Assessing

the requirement of revenue-gap grants is also an exercise which accords special consideration to backward states. States, which are relatively more backward are not able to raise as much of their own revenues as better off States. This gets built into the assessment of revenue-gap grants.

Finance Commissions also take particular note of specific requirements of each State during their visits. Such requirements are met through recommendation of grants for special problems and upgradation and thus provide an opportunity to backward states to put forth their claims.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

1947. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any independent evaluation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes is being done;

(b) if so, the organization and agencies making independent evaluation;

(c) The details of norms being adopted from scheme to scheme; and

(d) The outcome of the evaluation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Programme Evaluation organisation (PEO) has been set up as an independent agency for the evaluation of development programmes being implemented under Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored schemes. The PEO undertakes evaluation of selected programmes/schemes under implementation as per the requirement of various divisions of the Planning Commission and Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The Evaluation studies are designed to assess the performance, process of implementation, effectiveness of the delivery system and impact of programmes. These studies are diagnostic and derive lessons for improving the performance of the existing